

***Cypripedium parviflorum* Salisb.**

yellow lady's-slipper
Orchidaceae (Orchid Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G5S2

General Description: Stem 6-16 inches tall, sparsely pubescent and more or less glandular, leafy throughout; leaves mostly slightly sheathing, broadly elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 inches long, up to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, lightly pubescent and usually glandular; flowers 1, subtended and usually exceeded by an erect, leaflike bract; sepals and petals greenish-yellow to somewhat purplish-brown or purplish-mottled, usually wavy margined and slightly twisted, the upper sepal broadest, 1 to $1\frac{2}{3}$ inch long, the lower pair completely fused or with only a notch at their tip; petals somewhat narrower and longer than the sepals, up to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch long; lip $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, strongly pouched, yellow, often purplish-dotted around the orifice.

Identification Tips: Distinguishable from *Cypripedium montanum* by having predominantly yellow, rather than white, lips (pouches). The 2 species can apparently hybridize, resulting in individuals with very pale yellow pouches. The habitat of *C. montanum* is typically well-drained upland, while that of *C. parviflorum* is wetland/riparian edge or ecotone between wetland and upland, but not upland.

Phenology: The taxon flowers in May and June.

Range: British Columbia to Washington and Oregon, east of the Cascade crests, to Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New York, and to much of eastern Canada and the U.S. In WA, it is scattered in Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, and Okanogan counties. Occurs in the Okanogan Highlands, Columbia Basin and Eastern Cascades physiographic provinces.

Habitat: Bogs and wet forests. In the channeled scablands of eastern WA it occurs around the periphery of ponds and in low, moist areas, generally in close association with red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) and starry solomon-plume (*Smilacina stellata*) are almost always present. Occasional individuals can be found somewhat upland from the red-osier dogwood, within microsites dominated by snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) with

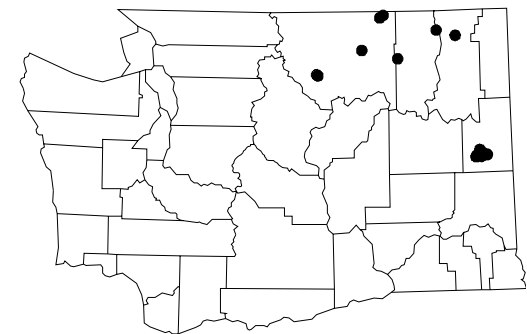
Cypripedium parviflorum

yellow lady's slipper



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Known distribution of
Cypripedium
parviflorum in
Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Rex Crawford



Photo by John Gamon



Photo by Lynn Cornelius

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Habitat (continued): a ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) overstory. Elevation ranges from 2100 to 3440 feet.

Ecology: The taxon is commonly found in the ecotone between wetlands and adjacent uplands. Historically, fires would have burned through this habitat periodically. Fire suppression has probably affected the habitat, although such change has not been characterized.

State Status Comments: Most occurrences are small, lack protection and are subject to a number of potential threats.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory needs to be completed in the Channeled Scablands in Spokane County and in the Methow Valley in Okanogan County. Points in between should also be inventoried, including the Sinlahekin, Sanpoil and Colville River Valleys.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats include timber harvest, development, grazing, collecting, fire suppression, and prescribed fires during the growing season.

Comments: Synonymous with *Cypripedium calceolus* L. var. *parviflorum* (Salisb.) Fern.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 914 pp.

Luer, C.A. 1975. *The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada*. New York Botanical Garden, New York.